



Living from the Liturgy

A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays

*The Second Sunday in Lent
March 5 through March 11, 2023*

The words of our Lord can often be very confusing, from His many parables to His strange responses to the questions asked of Him. We are not the only ones often confused by His words. This day, Nicodemus comes to our Lord under cover of night, and asks a volley of questions, none of which seem to receive a response that makes any sense. Yet at the end of this conversation, our Lord remarks that *He must be lifted up*. In His crucifixion, and through the lens of His sacred death, His many dark sayings are clarified, and become to us no longer foolishness, but the Wisdom of God.

AN ORDER FOR DAILY MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Read the Scriptures appointed for the day, review the readings from Sunday, and learn by heart the appointed verse and portion of the Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, the Collect, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 5	Psalm 139:7-10	Gen. 16:1-9, 15— 17:22	Mark 6:1-13
Monday, March 6	Psalm 91:9-16	Gen. 18:1-15	Mark 6:14-34
Tuesday, March 7	Psalm 126	Gen. 21:1-21	Mark 6:35-56
Wednesday, March 8	Psalm 66:8-15	Gen. 22:1-19	Mark 7:1-23
Thursday, March 9	Psalm 28:6-9	Gen. 24:1-31	Mark 7:24-37
Friday, March 10	Psalm 118:19-24	Gen. 24:32-52, 61-67	Mark 8:1-21
Saturday, March 11	Psalm 2:7-9	Gen. 27:1-29	Mark 8:22-38

A LOOK BACK TO THE LITURGY – MARCH 5, 2023

Theme: All Scripture must be understood through the lens of Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

Hymn: 559, “Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion”

Summary of Readings:

Genesis 12:1–9: Abram is called by God to go to the land of Canaan, that there he and his offspring might receive their land, and that through them all humanity should be blessed.

Romans: 4:1–8, 13–17: St. Paul teaches that Abraham, even as all the Church, was saved by faith alone.

John 3:1–17: Our Lord speaks with Nicodemus, and speaks of the new birth which is by water and the Spirit—that is, through the saving flood of baptism in the Church.

MEMORY VERSE TO LEARN BY HEART:

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

THE CATECHISM: OFFICE OF THE KEYS (PART II)

(Important! If you have memorized a different translation in confirmation, it is best to pull out your old catechism and refresh your memory from those texts.)

What do you believe according to these words? I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

PSALM OF THE WEEK: PSALM 121 (ESV)

Meditate on this Psalm every day when you pray, and use it as the starting place for your own prayer:

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

LUTHER'S PRAYER ON PSALM 121¹:

To You, O God, who has hitherto been our Father and our Patron, do we lift up our eyes, knowing that from You alone can come our help and our salvation. Grant us a living trust in Your mercy and truth that hearts do not fear when we must pass through the fire of trials or must wade through the waters of affliction, but always maintain a cheerful trust in Your help, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT:

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

¹ Reading the Psalms with Luther, CPH, 2007

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER – (From LSB page 294)

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

IN OUR PRAYERS AT CHRIST:

Prayer Family: *Will Pickering* and his loved ones

Sharon Holleman, Celia Weidner's sister, who is ill

Nancy Jones, Curt Dickens's mother, who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer

The People of Madagascar, who are recovering from recent tornadoes

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Luther's Morning Prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.